



**Reaching Out from the Cockfield
Benefice**

Covering the villages of:
Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St
George w Lt Whelnetham, Bradfield
Combust, Cockfield, Felsham,
Gedding, Gt Whelnetham &
Stanningfield

**Issue 95
March 2022**

Dear friends

As I write this we are watching events unfold in Ukraine, and our prayers and hopes are all directed towards peace returning to this country. We cannot imagine what it must be like for families living in the cities of Ukraine that are under attack; it must be a living nightmare. Our Archbishops have written a special prayer for Ukraine which I make no apology for reproducing here, please do pray it every day.

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

Lent begins soon and I invite you to join with me in a service of communion and imposition of ashes at Gedding Church on Ash Wednesday (2nd March) at 7.30pm.

The Church of England's theme for Lent this year is 'Live Lent: Embracing Justice'. Every year Christians are challenged to turn away from sin and towards new life. Together we acknowledge that we all need God's redeeming and transforming power. If you'd like to have the booklet that has been produced to accompany this theme then do please let me know. Or why not join a home group or the Lent Course at Horringer? (details further on in this issue of Reaching Out).

My prayers are with you all this Lent, may you find peace in the love of Jesus Christ.

With every good wish.

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter,
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Homegroups during Lent

Why not come along to one of our homegroups during Lent?

Two of them will be meeting weekly:

- From Monday 7th March at the home of William and Lynn Cardale, West Lodge, Bradfield St George, from 7.30-9.30pm. Please contact us if you wish to come along, on 01284.386327.
- From Tuesday 8th March at the home of Malcolm and Judy Gifford, Sparrows farmhouse, Chapel road, Cockfield from 7.30-9.30pm. We will be looking at a series of meditations from the letter to the Hebrews, entitled "Forgiven". Please contact us if you wish to come along, on 01284.827516.

Do come along especially if you haven't been before – you will be most welcome!

Coffee Morning Lent Course from 10am-11.30 in Horringer St Leonard's which will be open to all from Ash Wednesday.

This will be led by Rev Canon Max Osborne, Helen Woodroffe and Craig Young. The Course has been written by the Venerable John Cox (formerly Archdeacon of Sudbury) and is called 'From the Jordan to Galilee' and based on the Gospel of Saint Mark. The intention is to begin with Coffee around tables with the obligatory cake from 10am and to begin our discussions and reflections around 10. 20am allowing lots of opportunity for discussion.

10am-11.30am Horringer St Leonard

Session One Ash Wednesday 2 March

Session Two Wednesday 9 March

Session Three Wednesday 16 March

Session Four Wednesday 23 March

Session Five Wednesday 30 March



GLOBAL HOPE IN ACTION

**Global Hope in Action
New name, same work!**

Many of you have been generously supporting Global Hope (officially Global Hope Network International UK) over the years, for which we are very grateful!

Although we have always been a UK registered charity, we have also been linked to our sister organizations in the USA and Switzerland. This has had its advantages, but we have recently been sensing that it was time for us to become fully independent.

So we ended these overseas ties in January, becoming fully independent and in doing so have changed our name, though not a lot. We are now called **Global Hope in Action**, but our work will remain the same as before, eg. working with refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, and with

poverty stricken communities in Armenia. Once we have completed all the necessary registration changes, we will write again to all our donors.

Please do continue to support us if you are able and would like to do so, and if you would like any more information please feel free to contact me.

Thankyou so much!

Malcolm Gifford

malcolmgifford@btinternet.com

01284.827516



*Refugee camp, Bekaa valley,
Lebanon*

Fairtrade Fortnight

As I write this Fairtrade Fortnight has just started and, as you read this, it is well underway. As Christians we are committed to love God and to love our neighbour which is why buying Fairtrade goods is something we should all be doing regularly. Fairtrade gives farmers a fair and stable price for what they produce as well as a little something extra for their community. Price stability means that they can plan ahead, and the little bit extra helps to pay for community facilities like schools, maternity clinics, fresh drinking water – whatever the community feels it needs. Fairtrade is all about justice and we all know that justice is a constant theme throughout the Old Testament. One of my favourite books is Amos

and in chapter 5 verse 24 he says 'But let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry'. Justice is not about equality, but about balancing the scales so that those who have least get a little extra and that is what Fairtrade does.

But we also need to remember that we are in the middle of a climate crisis that threatens our very existence on this planet. Many of those most adversely affected are farmers in developing countries. Patrick Kaberia, a Fairtrade tea farmer in Kenya and patron of the Suffolk Association of Fairtrade Towns, tells us that flooding is a real problem when the rains come as they are more extreme than in the past. Ironically there are also longer periods of drought and intense sunlight which turns the tea leaves yellow. Patrick's answer is to plant trees along the edges of watercourses to stabilise the banks and soak up the water. He is also planting shade trees in amongst his tea bushes to protect the leaves. Fairtrade premiums are enabling him to do this.

Patrick and I ask all of you to buy a few more Fairtrade goods this fortnight and enjoy high quality products which give producers a fair return for their money. Surely we all want everyone to enjoy 'life in all its fullness'(John 10.10)?



Notice of change in contact details – Brian & Pam Poulson

Please note that from Friday 25th February 2022 our telephone number 01284 828371 will no longer be available.

Please contact us by mobile phone or email as below.

Brian Poulson: 07850594925 or bwpoulson@farming.co.uk

Pam Poulson: 07554454930 or pam4134@hotmail.co.uk

VILLAGE FRIENDS

It was with great sadness that we made the decision to cancel last year's Village Friends Christmas lunch party. The rise in Covid cases and the emergence of a new strain of the virus made us feel that it was not a good idea to go ahead with our plans. However, we did manage to deliver a Christmas tea and goody bag to all those who would have come along to the lunch party; plus a Christmas goody bag to others who we have delivered tea boxes to during the pandemic

Village Friends is a group that started small in 2009. It grew and grew, showing a real need for elderly, lonely, vulnerable folk in our villages to meet with others, get out of their homes and build friendships. To chat, enjoy tea together, play board games, enjoy a visiting musician etc.

We meet in Felsham Village Hall on the third Thursday of every month from 2.00p.m. - 4.00p.m. Covid permitting. If not, we deliver tea boxes and newsletters to all. Currently the tea box run is 40 boxes delivered by 9 helpers, some of whom only do deliveries and are not regular group helpers. We deliver as far as Brettenham & Lavenham but mostly Cockfield, Felsham, Bradfield St George and St Clare.

Unfortunately many of us who run Village Friends are getting older and we would really appreciate regular help from some younger people in the villages. When we meet in the village hall there are tables to set up, cups of tea to be made and handed round, a dishwasher to operate (!) a raffle to call and clearing up to be done.

If you feel you could help please come along to a meeting or contact Sue Jell or Lynn Cardale. To be a regular helper you would need to do some basic safeguarding training and have a DBS check done (no charge). Look forward to seeing you. Thank you

Sue Jell 01284 828 892
Lynn Cardale 01284 386 327

Susanmjell@gmail.com
Lcardale@hotmail.com



Messy News!

Our most recent Messy Church took place at the end of January and was our best attended on record. 27 children came along accompanied by mums, dads and aunties!

For the first time we met in Cockfield Village Hall and we surmised that this was the reason for the high attendance as Cockfield School families are familiar with the hall. Many of the people who came were first timers and many of our regular families were unable to attend.

The atmosphere was wonderful and the hall had a real buzz to it. Rev Mark came along for the first time and proved invaluable as he made a mercy dash to Lavenham Coops for top up food supplies. Georgina came along to make drinks for the adults and the look on her face when she walked in was a picture!



Food wasn't the only thing that ran short as many people ran out of supplies for their craft activity. I was so overcome that I completely forgot to take any photos! So I'm sorry for the lack of pictures in this edition of Messy News.

Our theme for the afternoon was Epiphany and Candlemas. Activities included decorated 'thank you' notes, stitched wise man bookmarks, handsewn neck pillows, camels with clothes peg legs, decorated star biscuits and a variety of activities based around candles. The theme of the quiet session at the end was based on all the other people who feature in the story of Jesus' birth and afterwards: Mary. Joseph, the kings, the shepherds, Elizabeth, Simeon and the angels and the 'gifts' that they received from being part of that great event.



And the gift that we, too, can receive : the gift of having Jesus in our lives.



The tea that followed was different from usual as we had prepared it in bags and each family sat around their own table to make the meal Covid safe.

A wonderful time was had by all, if the smiles on faces were anything to go by as everyone went home. We then cleared up and went home ourselves, very tired but very happy!

Please pray for all our Messy Church families and that many will return for the next Messy session planned for March 19. Alas, it won't be in Cockfield Village Hall as it is booked for another event., so will probably be in the Church.

As always, you are more than welcome to come along to see what goes on. You could also join in with an activity and even get your hands messy!

Best wishes

Christine and the MC Team

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – March 2022

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Wednesday 2 March Ash Wednesday	7.30pm Communion & Imposition of Ashes - Gedding
Sunday 6 March 1 st of Lent	9.30am Morning Prayer – Stanningfield 10am Morning Prayer – Cockfield 10am Holy Communion – Bradfield St George 6pm Six2Seven – Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 13 March 2 nd of Lent	8am Communion BCP – Cockfield 10am Morning Prayer CW – Gedding 10am Communion – Bradfield St Clare 4pm Praise & Worship – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 20 March 3 rd of Lent	9.30am Communion CW – Stanningfield 10am Communion CW – Cockfield 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George 4pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 27 March 4 th of Lent Mothering Sunday	9.30am Communion – Gt Whelnetham 10am Family@Felsham – Felsham 10am Mothering Sunday Service - Cockfield

Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com

A service of Celtic Morning Prayer is held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am
A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom. For more details contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter at revsharon2@gmail.com or phone 01284 828599 or 07825-086063